

MICHIGAN RHEUMATISM SOCIETY

founded 1947

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February 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Michigan State Senate
Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee
320 Farnum Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Shirkey,

On behalf of the Michigan Rheumatism Society (MRS) and our physician members, I am writing in support of HB 4812 and in opposition of HB 4812 S-1. We believe HB 4812, as passed by the House of Representatives, is a common sense solution to ensuring patient safety and transparency by requiring communication to the prescribing physician when substituting a biological product with an interchangeable biologic drug.

Biologic medications have offered breakthroughs in the treatment of rheumatic diseases. These medications attack the symptoms and disease at the source, helping to treat and control a patient's pain.

Biosimilars and interchangeable biologics offer another step in the ability to provide patients affordable, effective care. However, a biosimilar will never be an exact replica of a biologic. Because of this difference between medications, it is imperative that physicians and patients are made aware of the specific biologic dispensed.

MRS urges the Senate Health Policy Committee to support HB 4812 and oppose HB 4812 S-1.

Sincerely,

Amar Majjhoo, MD
President, Michigan Rheumatism Society